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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## *The CIA on the March 8 Car Bombing*

In its lead news article May 12, The Post alleged that the CIA had "an indirect connection" to the March 8 car bombing in Beirut which killed more than 80 people and wounded many others.

Before the story was published, the CIA categorically denied to The Post reporters any involvement, direct or indirect, in the bombing. Moreover, in a statement immediately after the story appeared, the agency publicly denied any connection with this event.

The House Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) investigated The Post story and inter alia reported to the full House on June 12 that:

"The committee's review has uncovered no evidence that any U.S. intelligence agency—any U.S. government

agency—has encouraged or participated in any terrorist activity in Lebanon. Further, the committee was able to discover no evidence that any U.S. intelligence agency had foreknowledge of the March 8 bombing outside the residence of Sheik Hussein Fadlallah.

"Without addressing the specifics of the allegations raised in connection with this deplorable terrorist event, the committee states that its review of relevant documents and files and its interview of appropriate government officials leads to the conclusion that no U.S. government complicity, direct or indirect, can be established with respect to the March 8 bombing in Beirut."

The CIA regrets that The Post ignored our denial of any involvement in the March 8 Beirut incident and that

its article gave the American public and the rest of the world the false impression that the U.S. government was involved in terrorist activity. This misleading theme has been picked up by other journalists as fact and has even been cited by the Shiite terrorists as one of the motives for the hijacking of TWA Flight 847.

It is imperative that The Post promptly correct the record and bring to its readers' attention the HPSCI's refutation of agency involvement in the March 8 bombing. As Secretary of State George Shultz said in commenting on The Post's story, "If the CIA denies something, it's denied."

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